2026
BLACK CREATIVITY
JURIED ART
EXHIBITION

BLACK CREATIVITY MISSION

To introduce Black children to educational opportunities and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics through programs and events that encourage teachers, as well as children and their caregivers to utilize the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry as a resource for inspiring the inventive genius in everyone.

Learn more at griffinmsi.org/black-creativity

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

The program began in 1970 as a tribute to the culture, heritage and contributions of Black artists. It was conceived and organized by a group of local artists along with key staff members of the Chicago Defender. Initially called Black Esthetics, the early years captured cultural pride among the Black community at the time, with the *Juried Art Exhibition* and live music, dance and theatrical performances.

In 1984, the program was renamed Black Creativity and soon expanded to celebrate the contributions of Black professionals in the sciences. New experiences were added, including educational programs and a gala to support the annual program. Now in its 56th year, Black Creativity's longevity underscores the program's impact in bridging the arts, science and community with an indelible mark on Chicago history.

The *Juried Art Exhibition* is the signature program of Black Creativity. It remains the longest continuously running juried exhibition of Black art in the nation.

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition*!

It is an honor to have you with us as we celebrate the extraordinary talent and creativity of Black artists. Each piece on display was carefully selected to highlight the uniqueness, beauty and strength of the Black experience while upholding Griffin MSI's mission to inspire the inventive genius in everyone. Congratulations to this year's featured artists in both the adult and teen categories.

For 56 years, this exhibition has showcased the boundless creativity and potential of the Black community in Chicago and beyond. Today, the *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition* continues to captivate and compel visitors of all ages to explore the ingenuity of these artists and experience their own moments of inspiration. We encourage you to engage with the works on display, and we hope they challenge and resonate with you.

Our Black Creativity programming explores the intersection between art, science and creativity through hands-on activities available to students, teachers and families. Annual events like Family Day, the Career Showcase and Jr. Art and Science Cafés encourage diversity in STE(A)M by providing Black youth exposure to careers, educational pathways and working professionals. Each aspect of the program is designed to celebrate Black creatives, innovators and STE(A)M professionals, while inspiring the next generation to think boldly.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our Black Creativity Council, jurors, supporters, team and volunteers. Griffin MSI and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago are deeply grateful for our ongoing partnership that allows us to unite art and science in this unique collaboration.

Last, but certainly not least, we offer sincere thanks to **you** for being part of this experience. Your presence and continued support of Black Creativity allow this program to thrive.

We hope this exhibition inspires you to continue the conversation around the power of art and science.

Dr. Chevy Humphrey
President and CEO
Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Jiseon Lee Isbara
President
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Chair, 2026 *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition*

BLACK CREATIVITY LEADERSHIP

GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

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BLACK CREATIVITY COUNCIL

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Peggy Montes

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Shari Runner

Terri Runyon Walker

Myiti Sengstacke Rice

Cedric Thurman

Committee current as of January 12, 2026

JURIED ART LEADERSHIP

JURORS

Akilah S. Halley

Norman Teague

JUROR BIOGRAPHIES

Akilah S. Halley

As a Chicago native inspired by the city's vibrancy, Akilah is committed to social change through human-centered strategies for youth and community development. Throughout her career, she has dedicated nearly 20 years focusing on equitable approaches that make Chicago a better place for all people to live, work and thrive. Her experience spans nonprofit management, philanthropy, arts programming, K-12 public education, community engagement and design.

Since 2018, Akilah has been at the helm of Marwen as Executive Director, managing a staff of 19 and board of 28 board members, overseeing operations for a $3 million budget. In her communications role at Crown Family Philanthropies, she worked across every program area, engaging both the foundation and family office. In prior roles with Urban Gateways and Chicago Public Schools, she created marketing strategies, expanded organizational visibility, led promotional design and facilitated community engagement across Chicago.

In her commitment to civic engagement, Akilah is a member of the Cultural Advisory Council for Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. She was a member of the Leadership Advisory Committee of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2021 Chicago Defender Women of Excellence, 2020 Sorkin Center Children and Youth Leadership Cohort and 2019 National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program Cohort. She participated on Chicago's Mayor-Elect Lori Lightfoot Arts and Culture Transition Committee, and is a former Co-Chair of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy.

Akilah holds a Master of Design in Design Planning and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design. She lives on the southside of Chicago with her husband and two sons.

JUROR BIOGRAPHIES

Norman Teague

Norman Teague is an artist, designer and educator based in Chicago. He is also the founder and principal of Norman Teague Design Studio. Teague's studio approaches design as a form of critical inquiry, one that asks how furniture, objects, and public-space interventions can influence, inspire and actively engage with the user. We treat design not as a neutral act, but as a cultural responsibility. Through his practice, I explore the systematic complexities of urbanism, the layered histories of black and brown neighborhoods, and the everyday cultural rituals that shape how people move, gather, celebrate and build.

Teague has had group and solo exhibitions in Venice, Italy, New York City, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Chicago, among others. In 2023, Teague participation of *Re+Prise in the Everlasting Plastics US Pavilion* for the Venice Architecture Biennale. He has also conducted numerous workshops, including Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Penland School of Crafts, and Lagos, Nigeria. Notably, Teague is part of the Obama Presidential Center artists/ designer team, collaborating with other local talents to shape a significant cultural institution.

Teague has been featured in *Architect*, *The New York Times*, *The Reader*, *Wallpaper*, *Dezeen* and *designboom*. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, where he teaches in the School of Design Industrial Design Department. Teague holds an associate degree in pre-architecture from Harold Washington College, a BA in Art from Columbia College Chicago, and an MFA in Design Objects from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

GENERAL CATEGORY

Main Level

BLACK CREATIVITY

ARTISTS AND WORKS: GENERAL CATEGORY

Kaima Akarue
We holding on til the ride stops, 2025
Paper collage
$4,200

Reggy McFly
Sara smile, 2025
Acrylic, velvet and foam on canvas
$10,500

Marcus the Artist
Compass Prayer (sundial asana), 2025
Clay, wood and found objects
$8,000

Gregory Almonord
The Thinker, 2024
Photography
$500

udochukwu anidobu
Raphael Wokolo Anidobu, 2025
Mixed media collage
$800

Pugs Atomz
Put on my dancing shoes, 2025
Woven and embroidered cotton tapestry
$2,000

Alice Aida Ayers
I HAVE TO HUG THIS TREE, 2025
Textile
$11,000

FREEDOM IS MORE THAN A WORD, 2025
Textile
$9,000

Deborah Awwad
Reflections of Summertime in Chicago: Crown Fountain, 2023
Photography
$350

Tiffany Bailey
Brothers, 2025
Oil
$400

bARBER
La Nueva Mujer es Mary and Joseph, 2024
Collage on paper
$4,300

Adrian Bates
Home of Grooming, 2023, 2023
Photography
$250

Jaymes Earl
Suri Swag VI, 2024
Pins and embroidery floss on plywood canvas
$6,000

Annelise Box
There is no better word than we., 2024
Quilt, denim blend, cotton
NFS

P. Muzi Branch
The Bass is Important in Black Music, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
$6,300

Paul Branton
Building Blocks, 2024
Acrylic, spray paint, marker, ink, oil pastel and wood on canvas
$5,000

Kamari Bright
Close Spaces, 2023
Video
NFS

Adrienne Brown-David
Bijou In Green, 2025
Oil on panel
NFS

Ed Brown
Obatala, 2025
Formed leather, bones and hand-made head gear
$4,500

Nicholas Brown
Deconstructed, 2024
Acrylic, dye, paper, plastic and marker on canvas
$10,500

ARTISTS AND WORKS: GENERAL CATEGORY

Derrock
I got your back, 2025
Mixed media, acrylic, collaged paper, spray paint and marker
$5,000

David Buttram
Rear View, 2025
Oil on canvas
$3,200

Karim Chambers
Surviving statistics, 2024
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
$10,000

Earth is ghetto, 2025
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
$25,000

Ashley Chappell
untitled, 2024
Photography
NFS

Sam Lee Christian
Goodnight Moon, 2024
Fiber
$1,300

Sean G. Clark
Clarity, 2024
Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas
$2,000

curtis coffey
Elmira, 2024
Acrylic
$2,000

Amani J
Bleached, 2024
100 Kanekalon hand-crafted braids on canvas
NFS

Josh Cook
Bees on the Lowend, 2025
Oil
$2,500

Crystal Coulter
Headspace, 2024
Oil, Flashe paint and gold leaf on canvas
$3,200

DonCee Coulter
Baroque Mode, 2023
Leather, suede, various fabrics and materials
NFS

Tara Coyt
Head On, 2023
Photography
$900

Toni Daniels
Legacy on Record: Marie Henderson, Out of the Past Records, 2025
Video
NFS

Tasanee Durrett
DuafeDuafeDuafe, 2024
Acrylic and salt on canvas
$4,000

Brian Edwards Jr.
The Ride, 2023
Photography
$3,500

Myah Freeman
Freeman Boys, 2025
Acrylic and gold leaf on unstretched canvas
$10,000

Afi Lane
The Three Muskateers, 2024
Oil
$5,500

Raymond Ezekiel
[you've changed since we last met], 2024
Acrylic on canvas
$2,500

ARTISTS AND WORKS: GENERAL CATEGORY

Nicole M Fisher
Radiate Intelligence, 2024
Acrylic mixed media
$1,600

Mark Francis
I'm My Own Damn Village, 2025
Colored pencil, mulberry paper, 24k gold leaf
$12,500

Peggy Lee
Effacing Us, 2025
Acrylic paint, gemstones, wedding tulle
$1,250

Vincent (Sniper) Frimpong
You on my mind when I sleep, 2025
Stoneware and metal
$3,200

Lexus Giles
Face Jug Series, 2025
Ceramics
$8,000

Desirae J. Green
The Fig Tree, 2024
Oil on canvas
$850

Lets Play Airplanes, 2025
Oil and acrylic on canvas
$980

Datrianna Green-Meeks
Kangol Gword, 2025
Acrylic on paper
$1,350

You're a Gem, 2025
Acrylic paint on canvas
$1,000

Zen Diva Noire
Quitta, 2025
Acrylic and clay
$750

Lavendar, 2025
Acrylic and clay
$750

Juarez Hawkins
Protect Me from What I Hear, 2025
Stoneware with glazes
$2,000

Heaven Hill
Strands, 2024
Fabric collage, beading
NFS

Avrion ®
The Weight We Weld, 2025
Wood, epoxy
$1,200

Kintsugi, 2024
Wood, epoxy
$900

Shane-Jahi Jackson
Portrait of Jomo, 2024
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
$2,000

Portrait of Jay'Lah-Leshae Anderson, 2024
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
$2,000

Samaria Jones
Still Standing, 2023
Charcoal
$1,200

Lupe Lawrence
Walking the Beach, 2024
Oil
$2,500

Sabena T. Leake
My Brother's Keeper, 2025
Pastel pencil and white chalk on pastel paper
NFS

Aisha Imani Sanaa
Let the Children Read, 2025
Graphic collaged print, acrylic paint
$6,288

ARTISTS AND WORKS: GENERAL CATEGORY

Embodying Our Essence, 2025
Graphic collaged print, acrylic paint
$6,288

Harlem Renaissance, 2024
Graphic collaged print, acrylic paint
$8,000

Souls of Black Folk, 2024
Graphic collaged print, acrylic paint
$8,000

Jo Lewis
Cut From the Same Cloth, 2025
Acrylic and fabric on canvas
NFS

Gee Girl, 2025
Acrylic and fabric on canvas
$1,800

Nika Lucks
Self-care day, 2024
Photography
$200

Marley Lyon
Alter Road, 2025
Steel, Dura-lar, stainless steel grommets
$1,500

Kayla Mahaffey
Seekers, 2024
Acrylic on panel-board
$20,000

KNyame Maison
Denkyem Gwa (Crocodile Stool), 2025
Wood, glass beads, bronze beads, leather and rope
$3,600

Christopher Malone
Don't Move; They Might Be Watching, 2025
Mixed media
$7,000

Tafari Melisizwe
Gettin' Grown, 2025
Photography
$2,500

Dionne Victoria
Margaret Walker, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
$8,000

Jakayla Monay
Don't Clip Her Wings, 2025
Photography
$1,200

Rashad Ali Muhammad
Tears of Liberation, 2024
Collage
$1,800

stevia roxanne.
Dedicated To, 2024
Photography
$500

Uthman Olowa
MICHAEL, 2024
Acrylic
NFS, Courtesy of Dr. Natalie Williams

Ross Junior Owusu
BEINGS through the same things, 2025
Earthenware, crawl glaze, lava glazes, fabrics and tubes
NFS

B33bi Deshye3 (|Be|Longing), 2025
Earthenware, traditional trade beads and bicycle parts
NFS

Fileve Tlaloc
A/apartheid, 2024
Glass beads, leather, cardboard, nylon thread
$3,000

ARTISTS AND WORKS: GENERAL CATEGORY

Kasandra Pantoja
The Heavy Lifting, 2025
Fabric, cowrie shells on canvas
$1,600

The President Still Loves Me. He Just Won't Give Me a Job., 2025
Fabric collage
$1,200

Talent Wears A Skirt, 2025
Fabric collage
$1,600

Romeo C. Robinson
A Citizens Skepticism, 2025
Charcoal, acrylic
$1,500

Shanel Romain
Saniyah Number 1 ode to "The Problem", 2025
Acrylic paint and paper
$1,900

Nyia Sissac
90 of me, is you., 2024
Photography
$1,250

BlackMikeStidham
Da Lost Boyz, 2023
Ceramic, rocks, resin
$1,200

Christina M. Tapper
A Slow Breaking, 2025
Mixed media collage on canvas
$1,150

The Sir Taylor
Ready Or Not, 2025
Photography
$2,000

Sydney Toles
Who Will Pass The Test?, 2025
Oil
$1,000

The Townie
Blue & Black Jazz, 2025
Photography
$2,000

Julia Turner Lowe
Despite the Chaos, 2025
Textile
$3,500

Hakeem Kamau
Double Dutch, 2025
Photography
$200

Rosemond Nyamewaa Van-Ess
A Woman's Sanctuary_2, 2024
Earthenware and lava glazes
NFS

Jayla Trenyce
In Her Reflection, 2024
Photography
$800

Jamaal Williams
Little Brother, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
$8,500

Arthur Wright
Alexis Lombre on Piano, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
$3,600

Kevin Lee Wurm Jr.
Mrs. Gooch, 2025
Photography
NFS

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For more information visit **griffinmsi.org/juriedart/artists**
or contact **juriedart@griffinmsi.org**.

TEEN CATEGORY

Lower Court

BLACK CREATIVITY

ARTISTS AND WORKS: TEEN CATEGORY

Tristan Allen
Kenwood Academy High School
TRIST, 2025
Digital media
NFS

Ella Archer
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Emotions, 2024
Mixed media
$50

The Whole Gang, 2024
Mixed media
$50

MathComic, 2025
Digital drawing
$50

Maya Archer
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Lost in a field?, 2025
Fabric, embroidery, stuffing and ink
NFS

Brown Cow, 2025
Mixed media
NFS

Mmnt 4 u, 2025
Mixed media
NFS

Nostalgia Keeps Popping Up!, 2025
Mixed media
NFS

Pashance Booth
Hillcrest High School
Les Yeux de la Nuit, 2025
Photography
$5

Weight of the Moment, 2025
Photography
$5

Sixteen, 2025
Photography
$5

One Team One Goal, 2025
Photography
$5

Cayla Britton
Nile North High School
Two Magical Puff Balls, 2025
Crayons, markers, pencils and erasers
NFS

Life, 2024
Paint, markers and colored pencils
NFS

Different, 2024
Crayon
NFS

A Hand That Can See, 2024
Crayon
NFS

Isaiah Cole
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
God's Messenger, 2025
Photography
$40

Sacrifice & Sorrow, 2025
Photography
$35

Dreams on Water, 2025
Photography
$40

Jaiden Demus
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Unusual Curiosity, 2023
Acrylic
$45

Slow & Stylish, 2023
Acrylic and watercolor
$45

Layers of the past, 2025
Ink
$60

ARTISTS AND WORKS: TEEN CATEGORY

Dark Abyss, 2025
Ink
$55

Nyla Forman
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Oscillations, 2025
Oil on canvas
NFS

Heliolatry, 2025
Oil on canvas
$200

Nyla Forman
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Sangaku Shinkō, 2025
Oil on canvas
NFS

Sperm Journey, 2024
Watercolor on Bristol
NFS

Adrianna Fuqua
Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School
Valentines, 2025
Permanent ink, hand-carved rubber stamps
NFS

To My Ears, 2025
Permanent ink, hand-carved rubber stamps
NFS

In Harmony, 2025
Permanent ink, hand-carved rubber stamps
NFS

The Leaning Tower, 2025
Permanent ink, hand-carved rubber stamps
NFS

Alaina Greene
Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School
Youth, 2025
Pencil
$250

Lead the way, 2025
Pencil
$250

Share my world, 2025
Prismacolor pencils
$720

Twins, 2025
Pencil
NFS

Camille Kejo
Walter Payton College Preparatory High School
Under the Table, 2024
Water mixable oil and acrylic paint
NFS

Camille Kejo
Walter Payton College Preparatory High School
What's Up?, 2025
Water mixable oil and acrylic paint
NFS

Untitled, 2023
Charcoal, graphite pencil, and colored pencil
NFS

Anne Summer Kelly
Kenwood Academy High School
The Chashitsu (茶室), 2025
Digital collage
$50

Armoni Knight
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
honor in service, 2025
Photography
$150

Downtown Lunch, 2025
Photography
$150

playground, 2025
Photography
$150

ARTISTS AND WORKS: TEEN CATEGORY

Rihanna Linyard
Art in Motion High School
Tropical Radiance, 2025
Acrylic, watercolors, and marker
NFS

Roots of Radiance, 2025
Acrylic, watercolors, and marker
NFS

Underwater 1, 2024
Acrylic, watercolors, and marker
NFS

The fruit of life, 2024
Acrylic, watercolors, and marker
NFS

Lerenz Majors
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
Downtown Chicago, 2025
Photography
$140

Millennium Park, 2025
Photography
$75

HF Wrestling, 2024
Photography
$50

Eryn Mason
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
Total Chaos, 2025
Digital concentration
$150

Happiest Place In the World, 2025
Digital concentration
$150

jasmine McGhee
Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Reflection, 2025
Photography
$50

After the storm, 2025
Photography
$50

Montana Skies, 2025
Photography
$50

Morning Light, 2025
Photography
$50

Allison Moncrieffe
Niles West High School
black excellence, 2024
Photography
$875

in the loving memory, 2024
Photography and Riso
NFS

beyond the model, 2024
Photography
$895

Frehiwot Moses-Rosenthal
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Ethiopian church, 2024
Oil
NFS

Conversations, 2024
Oil
NFS

Devi Nguyen
Chicago Academy for the Arts
An End to Finish, 2025
Charcoal and kneaded erasers
NFS

Out of Comfort Zone, 2025
Charcoal and kneaded erasers
NFS

So close yet So far, 2025
Acrylic
NFS

ARTISTS AND WORKS: TEEN CATEGORY

Jordin Ortiz
Hillcrest High School
My Room, 2024
Paper
NFS

Menaal Seward
Homeschool
Beyond the Stars, 2025
Mixed media
$2,000

Reagan Seye
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
Food For the Soul, 2025
Oil
NFS

Selah Shamley-Corey
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
A kiss for the blue star, 2025
Digital
NFS

Godly Gossip Magazine: April 2025 Edition, 2025
Digital
NFS

The rift between us, 2025
Digital
NFS

The eyes of your enemy, 2025
Digital
NFS

Alex Smith
Lincoln-Way East High School
Brotherhood, 2025
Acrylic
$1,000

The Servants, 2025
Digital illustration
$500

The Underground, 2025
Digital illustration
$500

Goddess Talk, 2025
Digital illustration
$250

Nia Terry
A Man, A Boy, 2025
Tempera paint and oil pastel
$450

Grillz, 2025
Acrylic
NFS

Marvin, 2025
Acrylic, collage
$1,000

Devioune Thompson
Hinsdale South High School
Sk8!, 2024
Photography
$200

Sk8!, 2024
Photography
$200

*Sk*8!, 2024
Photography
$210

Charlottes Webb, 2024
Photography
$180

Mylan Thornbor
Bremen High School
We Still Matter, 2025
Pencil and pen
$50

Lee Watkins
Homewood-Flossmoor High School
Leopard, 2024
Photography
NFS

Violet, 2024
Photography
$100

ARTISTS AND WORKS: TEEN CATEGORY

Warmth, 2025
Photography
$100

Comfortability, 2024
Photography
NFS

Heaven Williams
Morgan Park High School
Angels Have Bad Days Too, 2024
Acrylic and faux flower petals on canvas
NFS

Repeated Defeat, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
NFS

Untitled, 2025
Plaster, cotton, clay and tempura paint
NFS

livi williams
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Elements of Hip Hop (quadriptych), 2025
Mixed media
$1,000

Solidaridad/Razas Odiada, 2025
Colored pencil and ink on paper
$600

yeowch!, 2025
Oil on wood
$200

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BLACK CREATIVITY PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

A wide range of targeted, culturally relevant experiences are designed to provide Black youth with exposure to careers, educational pathways and other opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

CAREER SHOWCASE

Black artists, scientists, engineers and more join the Museum on Saturday, February 14 to highlight education and career opportunities in the STE(A)M fields. Guests can have one-on-one conversations, observe demonstrations on various STE(A)M-related concepts, and engage in hands-on activities. Included with Museum entry.

JR. ART AND SCIENCE CAFÉS

These programs provide school children with exciting opportunities to hear personal stories from STE(A)M professionals who look like them throughout February. Engaging in meaningful conversations and hands-on activities that allow youth to dive deeper into pursuing a pathway into STE(A)M fields. Sessions are not open to the public – registration is required, and schools must meet specific requirements to participate.

BLACK CREATIVITY GALA

On Saturday, February 21, Griffin MSI hosts an elegant evening to honor the indispensable and significant contributions of Black creators, innovators and artists. The night includes live musical performances, dancing, a seated dinner, access to the 2026 Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition and more. Ticket purchases and sponsorships support the ongoing success of the Black Creativity program year after year.

BLACK CREATIVITY NIGHT OUT

Join the artists behind the works in the Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition for an after-hours, adults-only party on Friday, March 20 from 6 to 10 p.m. The night includes an opportunity to meet and be inspired by the exhibit's featured artists as well as music, dancing, food and drinks. Tickets are $35, $20 for Griffin MSI members.

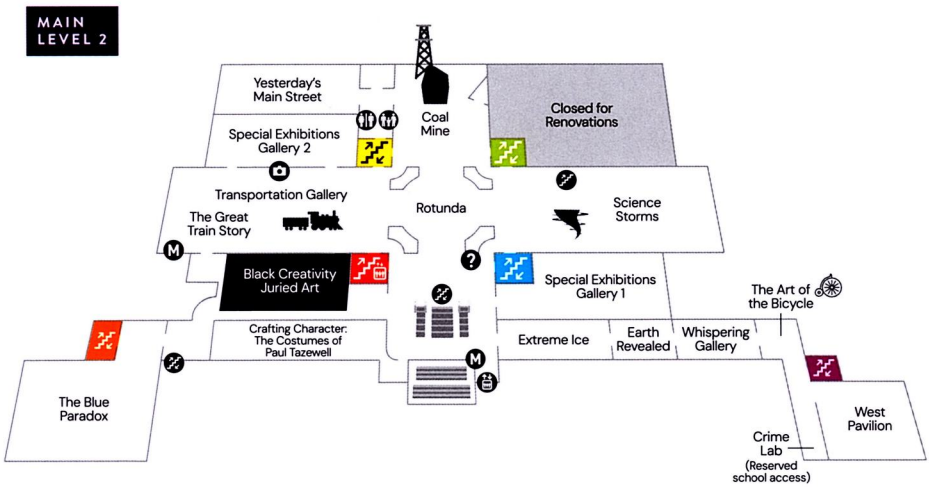
Learn more at **griffinmsi.org/black-creativity.**

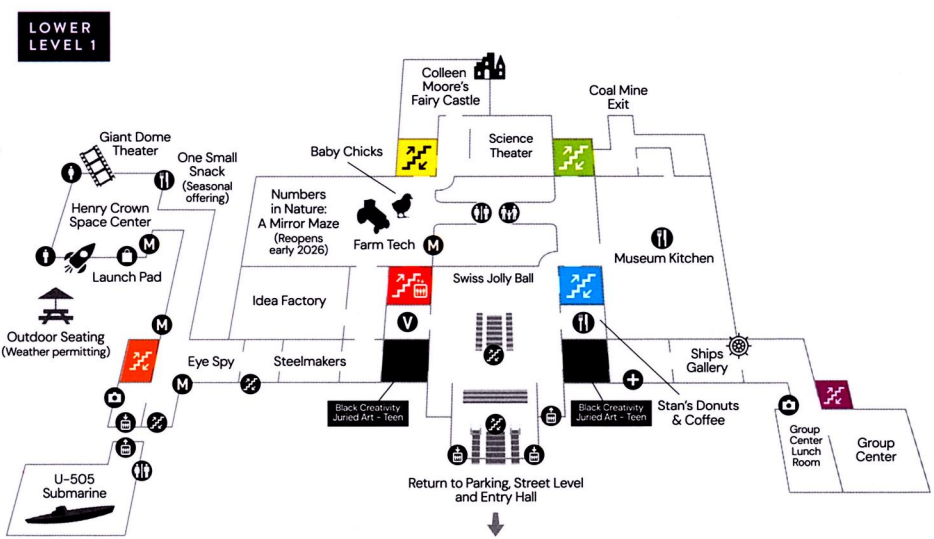
GALLERY GUIDE

New this year, Black Creativity Juried art will be in two featured locations.

The General category is on display on the Main Floor.

The Teen works are located in the Lower Court Canning Galleries.





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ON THE RIGHT:

Cheryl Boone, *Jump at the Sun,* 2024, acrylic ink & collage.
Courtesy Cheryl Boone.

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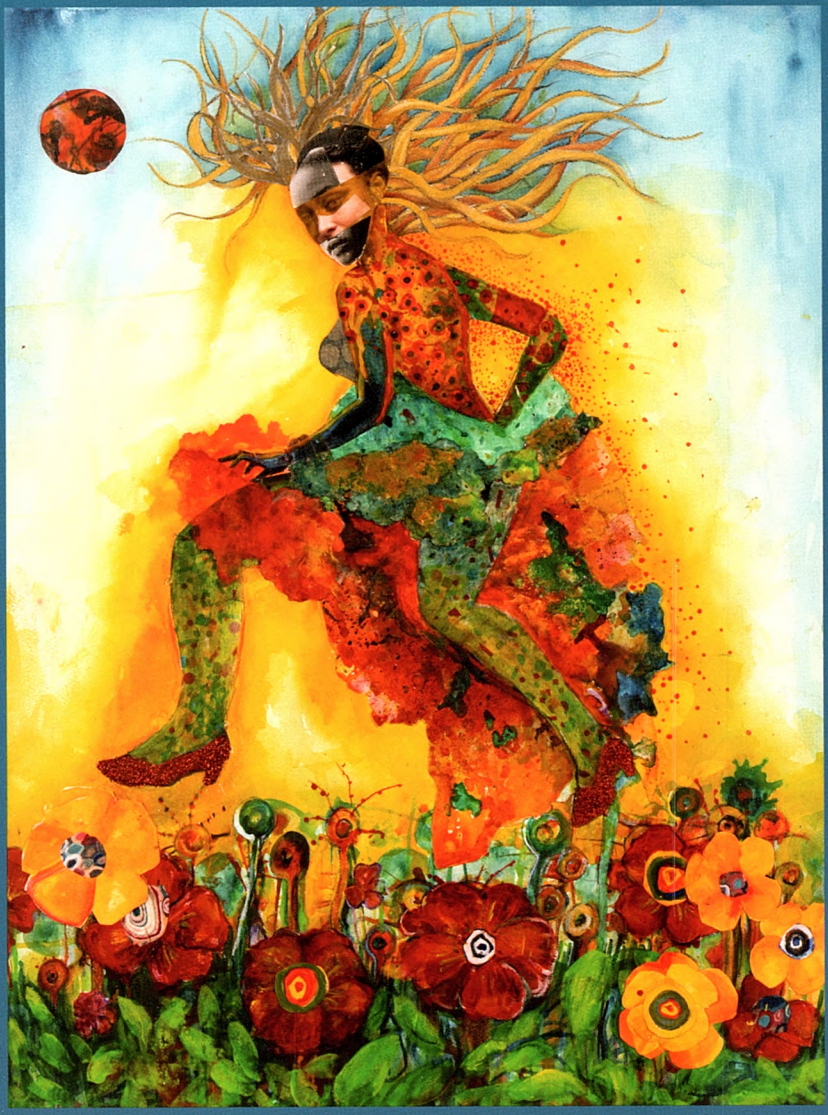

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